

Message Text

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ORIGIN NSF-02

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DRAFTED BY NSF/INT:JHBLOWERS
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SEP:RMORRIS
NSF/INT:BBARTOCHA
OES/APT/SEP:WDECLERQ
EUR/EE:ISILINS

-----006294 061613Z /45

R 051403Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TPHY, OSCI, TGEN, RO

SUBJECT:NSF/NCST SCIENCE PROGRAM

REF.: BUCHAREST 5753

1. ON AUGUST 2, AS A RESULT OF ARRANGEMENTS MADE THROUGH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, AMBASSADOR NICOLAE MET WITH DR. B. BARTOCHA, DIRECTOR NSF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, AND DR. R. MORRIS, DIRECTOR, OES/APT/SEP, TO DISCUSS STATUS OF NSF/NCST COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR BUCHAREST.
 2. DURING THE MEETING, DR. BARTOCHA WENT OVER GROUND COVERED IN NSF PAPER ON STATUS OF NSF/NCST PROGRAM GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR BARNES AT TIME OF HIS CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. DR. BARTOCHA POINTED OUT THAT DUE TO NUMEROUS PROBLEMS AS-
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SOCIATED WITH THE ROMANIAN SIDE, PARTICULARLY THE EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY RATHER THAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, THE LACK OF ROMANIAN INITIATIVE AND COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS, AND THE UNILATERAL TERMINATIONS WITHOUT EXPLANATION BY THE ROMANIANS OF ACTIVE, MUTUALLY APPROVED PROJECTS, THE CONTINUATION OF THE COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY JEOP-

ARDIZED. DR. BARTOCHA NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM, A MORATORIUM ON NEW ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN DECLARED BY THE U.S. IN DECEMBER 1976. MOREOVER, IT IS BECOMING VERY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS AND STAFF TIME FOR A PROGRAM THAT IS NOT COST EFFECTIVE. IN ADDITION, THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAS BECOME DISILLUSIONED AND DISINTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS.

3. THE MANY ATTEMPTS THAT THE U.S. SIDE HAS TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS AND ENSURE CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM WERE EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR NICOLAE, INCLUDING THE RECENT LETTER FROM DR. ATKINSON TO PROFESSOR URSU EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM. NOTE: AMBASSADOR NICOLAE DID NOT REQUEST A COPY OF THE LETTER NOR WAS A COPY OFFERED. DR. BARTOCHA AFFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR NICOLAE THAT THE NSF WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM AND SUGGESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT WISH TO BRING NSF'S POSITION TO THE ATTENTION OF HIGH-LEVEL ROMANIAN OFFICIALS AS AMBASSADOR BARNES HAS AGREED TO DO.

4. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR NICOLAE STATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE THE NSF/NCST PROGRAM WAS NOT GOING WELL SINCE HE HAD BEEN OCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE GOR AS A MATTER OF POLICY WISHED TO CONTINUE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRENGTHEN THE SCIENCE PROGRAM AS INDEED IT WISHED TO EXPAND ALL AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH PROFESSOR URSU, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A CLOSE FRIEND. HE WOULD ALSO GET IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR BARNES TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. HE SUGGESTED THAT PROFESSOR URSU SHOULD MEET WITH DR. BARTOCHA AFTER HIS CONSULTATIONS EITHER IN BUCHAREST OR WASHINGTON. DR. BARTOCHA REPLIED THAT HE IS PREPARED TO VISIT BUCHAREST FOR THIS PURPOSE.

5. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE ASKED IF NSF WAS PREPARED TO REACT TO THE LIST OF PRELIMINARY R&D PRIORITIES WHICH MATACHE GAVE TO DR. ZALAR DURING HIS VISIT TO BUCHAREST IN MAY. DR. BARTOCHA REPLIED THAT DESPITE THE LIST'S EMPHASIS ON TECHNOLOGY AND ITS LACK OF SPECIFICITY, THERE DID APPEAR TO BE SOME AREAS WHERE PROJECTS MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH A PAPER TO THIS EFFECT BY THE END OF THE MONTH SO THAT EMBASSY OFFICER PETRESCU COULD TAKE IT TO BUCHAREST.

6. WITH RESPECT TO EMBASSY'S REQUEST IN REFTTEL FOR INDICATION OF AREAS OF NSF INTEREST ON NCST LIST AS WELL AS FOR

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS IN EACH CASE, NSF IS
NOW ACTIVELY STUDYING LIST IN CONTEXT OF EMBASSY'S SUG-
GESTION AND WILL TRANSMIT RESULTS TO THE EMBASSY AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

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